

The Team Roe Times



Welcome The Team Roe Times. Our aim is to

- ◇ Create a sense of unity in the pro choice community
- ◇ Provide accurate and timely information regarding current and pending legislation
- ◇ Promote networking to share ideas, resources, and projects
- ◇ Share news of communities and individuals across South Dakota
- ◇ Feature stories about organizations, individuals, websites and more
- ◇ Promote growth, excellence and integrity

National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

May 2 was the [National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy](#), organized by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and observed each year in May.

Nearly 40% of teens aged 14 to 17 are using digital technologies to seek out health related information, including information on sexual health. In response, a growing number of sexual health organizations are creating online and Smartphone-based tools

aimed at providing reliable information and helping teens and young people prevent unintended pregnancy.

Designed to be a go-to source for accurate information about contraception, pregnancy prevention, and staying healthy in general, Planned Parenthood's new [Tumblr](#) presence puts helpful, current, and engaging information in front of its followers on a daily basis and allows them to share it easily with their own online circles.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy has also produced an online tool to help women avoid unplanned pregnancy: the organization's [Bedsider](#) tool is an online birth control support network for women 18-29, with the goal of helping women find the method of birth control that's right for them and learn how to use it consistently and effectively.

~ Carmen Toft



Don't forget to vote in the Primary Election on June 5! Early voting is open. For information about voting early or absentee, [check out the Secretary of State's Website](#).

Inside this issue:

ND Against Measure 3	2
NARAL Board Caucus	2
National Women's Health Week	2
Nancy Keenan to Step Down	3
United Against the War on Women Rallies	3
TTRT Book Club— <i>Lizzy Free or Die</i>	3
Choice Word: War on Women	4
Rep Noem's Latest Insult to Women	4

Tonight: [LUNAFEST](#) comes to Rapid City!

Tonight, May 15 2012, NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota will bring LUNAFEST© to the Journey Museum in Rapid City!

LUNAFEST© is a festival of short films by, for and about women. This season, the program of nine films – filled with stories of reflection, hope and humor – will travel to

over 150 cities and screen in front of 20,000 people.

Tickets to the Rapid City Screening will be \$20, \$15 for students and young professionals. The show starts at 6:30pm; Tickets are still available at the door! The Journey Museum is located at 222 New York Street in Rapid City.

Contact Hannah Prentice with questions Hannah@prochoicesd.org or 605-334-5065.

Join us for appetizers and an evening of fun and film! A cash bar will be available. Looking forward to seeing our West River friends!
~Alisha Sedor



North Dakotan's Against Measure 3

While we are gearing up for a fun-filled primary election on June 5, across the border in North Dakota, they plan to vote on "sincerely held religious beliefs."

I try to keep an eye on ballot measures in other states, because there's always a chance we'll see them end up in South Dakota. And you know how we love our ballot measures!

North Dakota will vote on June 12 on four different ballot initiatives including Measure 3 which aims to change the ND State Constitution. The North Dakota Family Alliance and the ND Catholic

Conference are supporting the measure that they claim will protect against discriminations against sincerely held religious beliefs.

If you think this sounds familiar, you're right. Long before the Blunt Amendment in February 2012, which would have allowed employers the option of not covering contraceptives if they were against their religious beliefs, North Dakota was planning to expand that idea.

Opponents of Measure 3, a coalition of legal and medical professionals, religious leaders, and concerned citizens

called [North Dakotans Against Measure 3](#), are worried about the unintended consequences of passing a change like this. From their website, "The language in this law is too broad, poorly written, confusing and has so many loopholes that it can open the door for serious and even harmful unintended consequences for all North Dakotans. In the real world, we all know that some people take advantage. Measure 3 could cause real harm to some of our most vulnerable citizens."

It will be an interesting result to watch.

~Carmen Toft

NARAL Board Caucus

Recently, one of our newest board members and I had the opportunity to attend a Board Development Caucus hosted by NARAL Pro-Choice America. Retreats like this help give our organization the tools and support to become even stronger. Here's what Miranda had to say about it.
~Alisha Sedor

On a recent trip to the Board Development Caucus in Minneapolis, I attended a series of excellent sessions covering topics on the functions and responsibilities of a

Board, and how to help build a diverse and effective Board of Directors for our NARAL affiliate.

As a new member to the NARAL Pro-Choice SD Board these sessions were very useful and I feel as though what I learned will help me better fulfill my role as a Director. One valuable thing I came away with is that, one of my responsibilities as a Director is to make sure that our NARAL affiliate staff is supported and to remind them that the work they do is incredibly important and that they are doing a great job. So, thank you

Alisha, Hannah, & Jennifer, for all your hard work to make sure pro-choice South Dakotans voice!

I returned from the Caucus with more knowledge on Board Development, and feeling invigorated and excited to work with my fellow NARAL Board of Directors, our fabulous staff, and our pro-choice partners to make sure that the women in our South Dakota retain the right to make their own decisions about their reproduction and lives with the privacy and respect they deserve.
~Miranda Boenisch

"So, thank you to Alisha, Hannah, & Jennifer for all of your hard work!"

National Women's Health Week

May 13-19 is [National Women's Health Week](#), a time when women are encouraged to prioritize their health and schedule wellness checkups that include lifesaving preventive health screenings.

National Women's Health Week is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services'

Office on Women's Health, and brings together communities, businesses, government, health organizations like the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, and other groups in an effort to promote women's health.

Last year alone, Planned Parenthood provided nearly

750,000 breast exams, birth control for more than 2 million people, 770,000 Pap tests, and more than 4 million tests and treatment for STDs.

Women can visit www.plannedparenthood.org to make an appointment for a woman's wellness exam at a health center near them.

~Carmen Toft

Nancy Keenan to Step Down



NARAL Pro-Choice America President Nancy Keenan announced last week that she plans to step-down at the end of 2012. Keenan took the reigns for the organization in December of 2004 and immediately showed proficient leadership. In 2006, she made Washingtonian Magazine's list of the top 100 most powerful women in Washington.

Keenan stated in an [interview with the Washington Post](#) that her decision to leave was in part out of concern for the future of the pro-choice movement, and that she could be holding it back. She expressed a belief that there is an opportunity for a new, young leader for NARAL Pro-Choice America, someone who can lead the movement for decades to come. As we approach the 40th Anniversary of the

Roe v. Wade decision, Keenan believes it is time for her generation to step out of the way and let those of the Millennial generation step into leadership roles.

As a young woman in the movement, I give my sincere thanks to Nancy for her years of inspiring leadership and for her efforts to create space for my generation in the pro-choice movement.

~Alisha Sedor

United Against the War on Women Marches - Brookings and Rapid City

On April 28, 2012, activists across the country organized marches and rallies to protest the War on Women.

In South Dakota rallies were organized by local activists in Rapid City and Brookings. Dozens of activists in both cities marched and rallied for

women's rights.

As with many rallies, one of the best parts was the signage. Some of my favorites from the Rapid City rally included "Oops, I dropped my aspirin," "At least the War on Women is going well," and a young boy in a t-shirt that said "Be nice to girls, cranky

man" (inspired by Rush Limbaugh).

Thanks from Team Roe to all who attended and especially those who took time out of their busy lives to organize the marches. It is so important we stand together, and say it loud!

~Alisha Sedor



Unofficial TTRT Book Club— *Lizz Free or Die* by Lizz Winstead

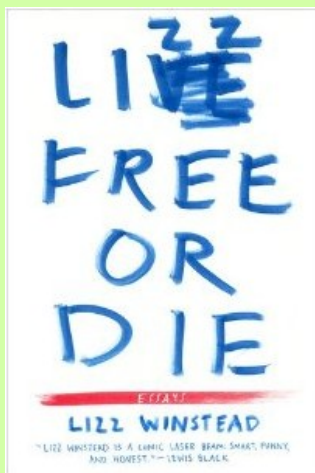
I love Lizz Winstead. Love, love, love, love. She's a comedienne, a feminist and an activist. Lizz grew up in our neighboring state of Minnesota, does comedy benefits for Planned Parenthood, and was co-creator of *The Daily Show*. If you're interested in politics and women's issues specifically and have a chance to see Lizz perform live, I

highly recommend it (she had me in tears on New Year's Eve this past year).

Her collection of what she calls "messays" was released this month and it is all at once funny, thought provoking and heartwarming. While many of her essays aren't choice related, a feminist theme can be found throughout. Along with being a champion for choice in her day-to-day

life, Lizz includes a very frank essay about her own teenage pregnancy. I don't want to spoil anything but this particular essay is pertinent to what we've been experiencing legislatively in South Dakota over the last couple of years. A great read by a great supporter of women, I recommend everyone check it out!

~Alisha Sedor



The Team **Roe Times**

A NARAL Pro-Choice South Dakota/
Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD Collaboration

Upcoming Events:

5/15 LUNAFEST—Rapid City

5/28 Memorial Day

6/5 Primary Election

6/14-16 State Democratic Convention—Aberdeen

6/21-23 State Republican Convention—Sioux Falls

*Please contact [Carmen](#) or [Alisha](#) if you would like your event added to this list.



Contact:
alisha@prochoicesd.org
ctoft@ppmns.org

Choice Words

May's Choice Word: **War on Women**

Beginning in 2011, anti-choice politicians across the nation launched a War on Women. Legislators proposed an unprecedented number of attacks on the right to choose.

In 2011, the U.S. House of representatives voted 8 times on choice-related issues, the most in a decade. Twenty-six states enacted one or more anti-choice measures, twice as many as 2010. That includes South Dakota becoming the first state in the nation to enact a 72-hour waiting period and visit to a Crisis Pregnancy Center before a woman can obtain abortion care. The law was enjoined by the courts and is currently pending litigation.

For more information about the War on Women, [check out this infographic from NARAL Pro-Choice America.](#)

We're on the web!

<http://www.prochoicesd.org>

<http://www.SDplannedparenthoodadvocate.org>



<http://www.facebook.com/naralsd>
<http://www.facebook.com/ppsodak>



@NARALSD
@ppsodak

Representative Noem's Latest Insult to Women

When it comes to violence, Native American women are the most vulnerable group; nearly half of all Native women are subject to rape, physical violence, or stalking by a domestic partner at some point in their lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Add "political assault" to that list.

Congresswoman Kristi Noem's recent comments regarding the Violence Against Women's Act was like a verbal gut-punch to Native women in South Dakota and across the nation.

Here's the background: In April, the U.S. Senate reau-

thorized an expanded version of VAWA, which included new language allowing tribes to prosecute non-Native attackers.

That's a pretty big deal considering the U.S. Department of Justice estimates 70% of the perpetrators of violence against Native women are non-Native. As it is, tribal councils have no authority to prosecute non-Native individuals on domestic assault charges, even if the perpetrators live on reservation land.

Coupled with the Senate bill's other protections for LGBT and immigrant survivors of domestic abuse, Rep. Noem dismissed these impor-

tant provisions as nothing more than a vote-fishing scheme by Democrats. "Unfortunately, in Congress there are some who'd like to make this a political play," Noem said. "They'd like to make a cheap shot and try to politicize it in an election year."

Noem's statement – and the flaccid counter-bill House Republicans want to pass - will leave a lasting mark on Native women and families if left untended.

I am Mniconjou Lakota from Cheyenne River. I have seen first-hand how prevalent domestic violence and sexual assault are on reservations. I have worked with Native moth-

ers who say they teach their daughters how not to be raped. Got that? The lesson isn't finding someone who loves and respects you, but rather avoiding a drunken partner or dodging attacks.

It utterly flabbergasts me how an elected official like Noem can claim to represent Native women and families, yet turn her back on the remedy intended to heal one of Indian Country's most troubling sores.

Tell Rep. Noem to end this harmful attack against Native women and other at-risk populations. Noem can be reached by calling (202) 225-2801.

~Taté Walker